

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

10. (New) A solid epoxy resin, characterized by modification with a secondary amine, said resin having an epoxy value of from 0.25 to 2.2 equivalents/kg and a nitrogen content, occasioned by the secondary amine, of from 0.2 to 4.5% by weight.
11. (New) The solid epoxy resin of claim 1, wherein the nitrogen content occasioned by the secondary amine is from 0.25 to 2.5% by weight.
12. (New) The solid epoxy resin of claim 1, wherein the amine is an aliphatic or cycloaliphatic amine having from 2 to 50 carbon atoms.
13. (New) The solid epoxy resin of claim 1, wherein the amine is a compound of the general formula HNR_2 in which R independently at each occurrence is an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl or cycloalkyl radical that is uninterrupted or interrupted by one or more heteroatoms, or both radicals R together are an unsubstituted or substituted alkylene radical that is uninterrupted or interrupted by one or more heteroatoms.
14. (New) The solid epoxy resin of claim 13, wherein the alkyl radical is a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}$ alkyl radical.
15. (New) The solid epoxy resin of claim 14, wherein the alkyl radical is methyl or propyl.

16. (New) The solid epoxy resin of claim 13, wherein the cycloalkyl radical is a C₅-C₇ cycloalkyl radical.
17. (New) The solid epoxy resin of claim 16, wherein the cycloalkyl radical is cyclohexyl.
18. (New) The solid epoxy resin of claim 13, wherein the alkylene radical is a C₄-C₁₈ alkylene radical.
19. (New) The solid epoxy resin of claim 13, wherein the alkylene radical is tetramethylene or pentamethylene.
20. (New) The solid epoxy resin of claim 13, wherein the alkylene radical is a C₄-C₁₈ alkylene interrupted by one or more heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of -NH- and -O-.
21. (New) The solid epoxy resin of claim 20, wherein the alkylene radical is -CH₂-CH₂-NH-CH₂-CH₂-.
22. (New) The solid epoxy resin of claim 1, wherein the secondary amine selected from the group consisting of piperazine, bis-2-hydroxypropylamine, dicyclohexylamine, 4-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine and bis(2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidyl) sebacate.
23. (New) The solid epoxy resin of claim 1, wherein the secondary amine is a 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine radical.

24. (New) A powder coating composition comprising an epoxy resin binder, wherein said binder comprises from 5 to 90% by weight of the epoxy resin of claim 1, based on the total amount of binder.
25. (New) The powder coating composition of claim 24, wherein the epoxy resin binder comprises from 10 to 80% by weight of the epoxy resin of claim 1, based on the total amount of binder.
26. (New) A powder coating composition comprising a polyester-epoxy resin binder, wherein said binder comprises from 5 to 99% by weight of the epoxy resin of claim 1, based on the total amount of binder.
27. (New) The powder coating composition of claim 26, wherein the polyester-epoxy resin binder comprises from 10 to 80% by weight of the epoxy resin of claim 1, based on the total amount of binder.
28. (New) The powder coating composition of claim 26, wherein the polyester-epoxy resin binder has a polyester component that is solid at room temperature.
29. (New) The powder coating composition of claim 28, wherein the polyester component has free carboxyl groups, a molecular weight (weight average Mw from GPC measurement with polystyrene calibration) of from 4000 to 15000, and a glass transition temperature of from 35 to 120°C.
30. (New) The powder coating composition of claim 29, wherein the molecular weight is from 6500 to 11000 and the glass transition temperature is from 40 to 90°C.

31. (New) The powder coating composition of claim 28, wherein the polyester component as a whole has an average acid number of from 10 to 100 (in mg of KOH per gram of polyester).
32. (New) The powder coating composition of claim 31, wherein the average acid number is from 20 to 90 mg KOH/g.
33. (New) A process for the preparation of a powder coating composition comprising the steps of melting the epoxy resin of claim 1 together with other optional constituents, mixing and homogenizing the constituents, and then cooling and comminuting the mass.
34. (New) The process of claim 35, wherein the homogenization step is carried out in an extrusion machine.